

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW  
STAFF REPORT  
May 26, 2015 Meeting**

8. **CAR No. 15-057** (E. Barnes)

**2030 Monument Avenue  
Monument Avenue Old & Historic District**

**Project Description:** **Paint masonry on the front façade**

**Staff Contact:** **W. Palmquist**

The applicant requests approval for painting work performed at this property in the Monument Avenue Old and Historic District. This application is the result of enforcement activity. The owner states that neither he, nor the building's supervisor, authorized this work. As evidenced by archived Google Streetview images, at some point in time between April 2012 and May 2014, the brick façade on the 1<sup>st</sup> story and the front porch, as well as the granite window lintels and porch details, were painted a brown color, similar to that of the existing brick. The front façade was painted on the 1<sup>st</sup> story to the height of the projecting bay's top window lintel. All the brick and granite details on the front porch were painted the same color.

**Staff does not recommend approval of the project.** The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* states, "Do not paint historic brick or stone masonry that has not been painted. Painting previously unpainted masonry is historically inaccurate and is not permitted. Property owners who wish to remove paint from masonry should work with a qualified contractor knowledgeable in the use of non-abrasive cleaners" (p. 59 #1).

Staff recommends that the property owner works with a qualified, historic preservation professional who is knowledgeable in the removal of paint from historic masonry to remove the paint and restore the condition of the façade and front porch. National Park Service "Preservation Briefs" provide information on how to remove paint from historic masonry in the least-harmful methods possible. Using abrasive cleaning methods is not recommended as it can damage historic masonry.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is not consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation outlined in Section 114-930.7(b) of the City Code, nor with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically the page cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.